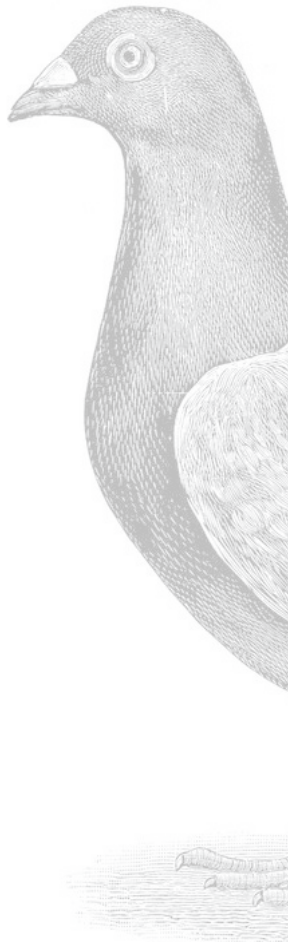


Being Sponsored



Faith without works is dead, they say. But so is work without faith. When you choose a sponsor it means nothing unless you decide to actually use that Sponsor to help you progress in your Recovery.

What's Your Part?

Do you tell your Sponsor when you are confused or do not understand something in a meeting or something from the Big Book?

You aren't expected to know everything and even people who have been around for years are still exploring the meaning of all of the resources available. Sometimes the confusion can be eliminated by something as simple as opening a dictionary to understand exactly what was meant by a specific word. Other times understanding will come after extensive discussion with your Sponsor and the other people in Recovery that you have added to your Network.

Do you keep looking, even when you think you have already found an answer?

Many of us stop looking once we get an answer we are happy with, but life is about change. As things change we need to find the right answer for the day – the answer that was good enough for our first few months in recovery may no longer be adequate. You do not give an eighth-grader the same test you give to a kindergartner, and the Eighth Year of Recovery may have more complex answers than the Newcomer seeking his/her 90-day chip.



Why are They Called Pigeons?

Although they are called different things in different areas – “Babies” on the West Coast, while others choose to follow Bill W’s, preferred “Protégé” – Dr. Bob spent his drinking career among people who used the phrase “pigeon-eyed” to indicate someone who was so drunk they could not see to find their own way.

In the Northeast, it became popular to explain that the phrase came from pigeon racers who learned that no matter how much they loved their pigeons, no matter how much they cared for them, the birds would still crap on their benefactor, much like a newcomer to AA.

But for Dr. Bob it was a very affectionate term, showing someone who was beat down, vulnerable and in need of a reliable guide. It was in this sense of being a trusted servant that Dr. Bob frequently called his sponsees “pigeons”.

Therefore, we call on the spirit of Dr. Bob’s service to carry this message to our modern pigeons, who are just as lost and unable to find their way as Dr. Bob’s early pigeon-eyed prospects.

The key to the service we bring to pigeons is the sharing of Experience, Strength and Hope, which is exactly what Sponsor Magazine tries to do. There are other, official channels for such sharing, but we want the members of all 12-Step Programs to benefit from the sharing of sponsors across time and across the spectrum of 12-Step fellowships.

Your sharing may be exactly what someone needed to hear, even if you never meet that confused and questioning pigeon.

Do you have a piece of art, a poem, a saying, a short essay or a teaching story to share?

Please do what you can to reach a future pigeon.

